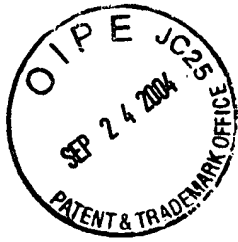


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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP 2833
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q68077

Masaru DEGUCHI

Appln. No.: 10/046,095

Group Art Unit: 2833

Confirmation No.: 2414

Examiner: Nguyen, Phuongchi T

Filed: January 16, 2002

For: EARTH CONNECTION STRUCTURE, EARTH CONNECTING MEMBER AND
EARTH CONNECTION METHOD

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 24, 2004, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith on the accompanying pages.

REMARKS

In the March 24, 2004 personal interview, both the Examiner of record in this Application and the Examiner's supervisor indicated that independent claim 8 was allowable over the reference of record. However, this agreement was ignored in the instant Office Action, and claim 8 was again rejected. Accordingly, Applicant's representative contacted the Examiner, who indicated that the Office Action was incorrect, and that independent claim 8 (and dependent claims 9-12 and 29) is indeed allowable (see August 22, 2004 Interview Summary).